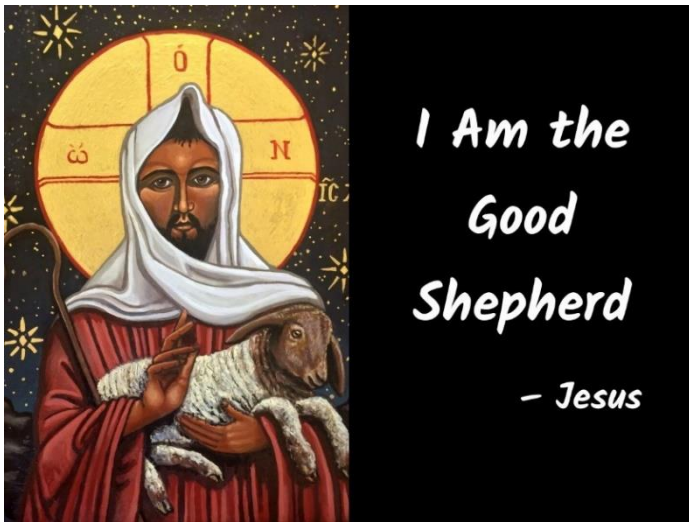


# EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

April 19 – 25, 2024

Church of the Epiphany ~ 85 Larch St. Sudbury, Ontario ~ P3E 1B8

[www.epiphanysudbury.org](http://www.epiphanysudbury.org) 705-675-2279 [info@epiphanysudbury.org](mailto:info@epiphanysudbury.org)



*I Am the  
Good  
Shepherd  
– Jesus*

## WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ GOOD SHEPHERD AND VOCATIONS SUNDAY ~ APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 ~

**8:30am** – Said Traditional Service with Holy Communion (BCP)

**10:30am** – Main Worship Service with music and Holy Eucharist (BAS).

**READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER:** Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

**SUMMARY OF READINGS:** In today's story from Acts we see how proclaiming the Easter faith in public places inevitably meant that early Christian evangelists were called before formal groups, such as the Sanhedrin, to defend their action. If being called to account requires reassurance, no psalm exudes the spirit of faith better than the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Another kind of boldness is introduced in the First Letter of John regarding that which comes from a clear conscience. The Gospel story moves us away from post-Easter appearances to Jesus' speech about his being the Good Shepherd, which likewise echoes the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:** What does it mean to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16)? Think about people who have been "good shepherds" for you, sharing the love and showing the way of Jesus Christ. Who has helped to lead you in right paths or walked with you in dark valleys? Who has given you comfort and calmed your fears? Who has shown you hospitality and grace, making a place at the table for you, even when you felt surrounded by enemies? How have you done these things for others?

**AT HOME PRAYERS: Morning** – Lord Jesus, who is my Good Shepherd, I pray you walk beside me through the joy and trouble of this day, and that you will lead me in right paths for your name's sake. In the comfort of your presence, I pray. Amen.

**Evening** – Lord, Jesus, my Good Shepherd, I pray you remain with me in the dark and stillness of this night and let me lie down in safety to restore my soul. In your peace, I pray. Amen.



**PLEASE REMEMBER** - If you are not feeling well, or have any ill symptoms such as coughing, fever, fatigue, or a sore throat, please stay home and join us for the worship services that will be offered online. We are delighted to welcome you online if you are not able to join us in person.



**THIS SUNDAY – FOLLOWING OUR 10:30 SERVICE: LUNCH AND LEARN** –The Church of the Epiphany is pleased to welcome our The Mayor of Greater Sudbury, Paul Lefebvre. A Soup and Sandwich Lunch is available for a Donation to our Outreach Team.



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Paul Lefebvre**  
 City of Greater Sudbury  
 Mayor

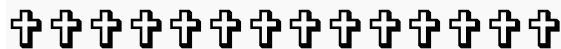
**BALCONY VEGETABLE GARDEN:** Recently the Monday Women's Bible Study (WBS) group confirmed its interest in running the balcony garden again this summer. Last summer the WBS was able to give the Outreach Team about \$200 of net proceeds for the Sudbury Food Bank from the sale of produce.

Looking at the pros and cons of doing so it was determined that we would limit the plants to those which were a) able to grow best in the balcony environment, and b) were also those which parishioners bought readily. The top three plants meeting these criteria are green runner beans, cherry tomatoes and basil.

So for this year these will be the ones we concentrate on. But we need your help! We need bigger containers, that are suitable for:

- individual basil or cherry tomato plants, perhaps even 5-gallon containers and we'll make the holes for drainage!
- Window boxes of at least 3 feet in length or large round containers suitable for setting on the ground below the balcony for growing the runner beans
- Lumber (and labour?) to build a few long boxes for the runner beans.
- And cash donations are welcome to help offset the cost of soil and plants!

If you can help with any of these things, please contact these two WBS members soon. For container donations or queries – Barb Bolton – 705-674-1691 or [rbandbb2@gmail.com](mailto:rbandbb2@gmail.com). For cash donations Mary Donato will be pleased to receive these after church any Sunday! Thanks!



### **A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH**

#### **Vocations Sunday Reflection**

“The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.”  
(Ephesians 4:11-16)



*“If you knew then what you know now, would you do it again?”* That is a question which I have been asked countless times over these last two decades. And I know I am not alone. Many of my fellow priests, pastors and colleagues who are serving in parish ministry in the Anglican Church, have been asked the very same question: *if you knew then, what you know now, would you have said Yes to God's call? Would you have been ordained a priest?* The questions arise time and again. Why? Because serving as a priest in God's Church is anything but easy. Most, if not all of the priests who I know and have had the great pleasure of serving with, all share similar challenges. In a world that is ever growing more secularized, more polarized, and more sceptical toward organized religion, the work and ministry of a parish priest – work to which many of us have been called - can often feel like having to navigate through a gigantic maze with a blindfold on! It's not easy. That's why I am so grateful that the Anglican Communion keeps Good Shepherd Sunday as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As the Letter to the Ephesians so eloquently reminds us, every gift that we have been authentically given is a holy gift from God that is intended for building up the body of Christ. Both our shared and individual vocations in the life of the Church must always be guided by Christ, who is our Good Shepherd. In times when we may feel lost or confused or have been led astray by the ill intent of others, the life, teachings,

examples and love of Christ Jesus is ever present with us to serve as our protection and as our guide. All of us have been brought into the one flock; we are all sheep in God's pasture, with Jesus as our Good Shepherd and who calls us by name.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, explains it like this:

"There is no greater joy in life than to follow Christ. No greater adventure, no greater purpose, no better way to live. But following Christ does not mean that we always know exactly what to do, and how our lives will unfold. Following Christ is embarking on a journey, and listening to the promptings of the Spirit, in prayer, in Scripture and through our brothers and sisters in Christ, so that we discover and grow into our calling. God calls all of us. God calls all of us to be disciples and to be church, and we hold this call in common. But God also calls all of us by name: specifically, individually, uniquely. This is when we speak of vocation: the specific path that our response to God's love and grace will take in our own lives.

These vocations will be as different as there are people. Every journey of vocation is invaluable and needs to be told, shared and cherished by the church. Together we discern the right paths and support one another on the way. Vocation has multiple threads – from being a friend, worker, parent, sibling, church member, carer, volunteer and many others, to taking up specific responsibilities in life, work or church.

A call to ministry can be held alongside other vocations, or it might be a disciple's main vocation. In the New Testament 'ministry' is a public and commissioned role which God calls some individual disciples to and which is recognised by the Church. The Church of England, and by extension the Worldwide Anglican Communion, is encouraging all Christians to think about their vocation, and, as part of this, whether they may be called to licensed lay ministry or ordination. Our response to God's calling us by name is the work of the Spirit. We are immensely grateful to everyone who has worked hard in their answer to God's call."

Like all of you who have answered God's call in your life; like all of you who have heard God call you by name, my answer to God's call remains the same now as it was then: Yes. And so, yes, I would do it all over again because Christ Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads me and you with goodness and mercy in all the days of our lives, and in our shared life together in his name. To God be the Glory. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,  
Elizabeth+

### **A Prayer for Vocations**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in Christ's Kingdom as bishops, priests, deacons, and consecrated persons.**

**Send your Holy Spirit so to help others discern and respond generously and courageously to your call.**

**May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in all persons.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**



**HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK IN THE DIOCESE OF ALGOMA:** Archbishop Anne, along with the Social Justice Committee for the Diocese of Algoma, are pleased to present for the first time in the life of our diocese, *Homelessness Awareness Week*. Please mark your calendars and be sure to participate in this important webinar being offered on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Registration is now open and it is free!. If you would like to register, please email Social Justice Committee member, Jane Cox at [Jane.e.cox1@gmail.com](mailto:Jane.e.cox1@gmail.com). If you have questions or would like more information, please be sure to speak with Rev. Elizabeth or with Terry Kett. Thank You! (See Poster below)



**LET US PRAY**



**FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Terry Kett; Chuks and Precious Azubuike; Gerry Loughheed; Kevin Doonan; Bob and Penny Unger; Phyllis Griffith.

**FOR THOSE IN NEED:** Sheila; William; Tim; Jean; Pat; Nick and Ellen; John and Judith; Margaret; Karen and Corrine; Della and Sandra; Frances; Monique; Carol, Bob and Riley; Maybourne.

**ON THIS VOCATIONS SUNDAY:** we pray for our Incumbent Priest and Pastor Elizabeth, and for every priest, male and female, who has answered God's call to serve in parish ministry in the Diocese of Algoma and throughout the Anglican Church of Canada.

**THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR PRIESTS:**

1. They love God and you a lot. (Be mindful.)
2. They are painfully limited human beings. (Be realistic.)
3. They probably have a pretty low view of their "performance". (Be kind.)
4. They wish they were a better preacher. (Be awake.)
5. They really do want God's best for you and your family. (Be open-hearted.)
6. Their work knows no time or locational boundaries. (Be patient.)
7. They hear much more negative information than positive. (Be encouraging.)
8. They have chosen a vocation in which few remain. (Be praying.)
9. They have chosen a highly leadership-intensive call. (Be lead-able.)
10. They need help. (Be available.)
11. Their God-given vision is bigger than themselves and the church. (Be faith-filled.)
12. They want to personally meet all the needs, but know they can't. (Be understanding.)
13. They are going to say some dumb things every now and then. (Be forgiving.)
14. They are greatly encouraged by your faithfulness. (Be there.)
15. They are passionate for God's Word to be made practical to you. (Be hungry.)
16. They long for church to be your spiritual oasis. (Be loving.)
17. They dream for your and your family's spiritual health. (Be receptive.)
18. They need to hear that you pray for them. (Be interceding.)
19. They are just regular people. (Be real.)

Pray for our priests. 🙏

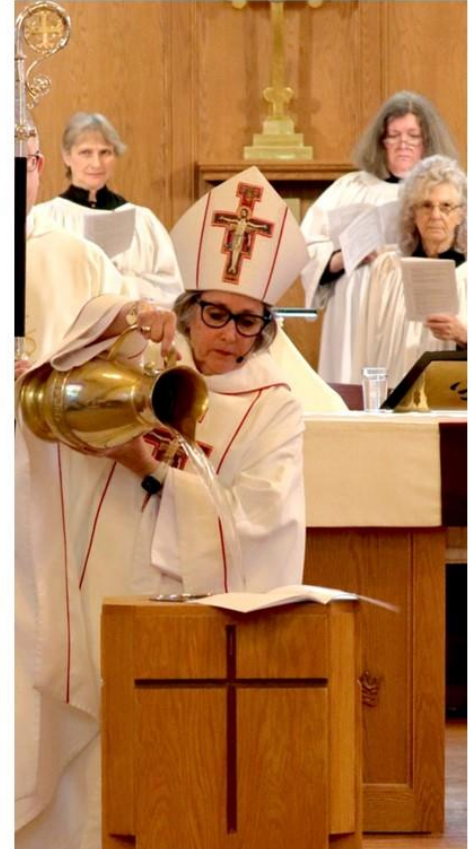
*A prayer for Priests*

Lord our God, you guide your people by the ministry of priests. Keep them faithful in obedient service to you that by their life and ministry they may bring glory in Christ. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

*Amen.*

# Thank You!!

A BIG Thank you to everyone who helped make our worship celebration with Archbishop Anne a truly glorious occasion in the life of our Church. Thanks also to those who shared their loving hearts and helpful hands in providing our wonderful potluck lunch following our worship. ***For All that You Do, and For All that You Are, Thank You and Thanks be to God!***



Join the  
"Panel Discussion Event"  
moderated by  
Abp. Anne Germond  
on Thursday May 2nd,  
7-8:30pm

HOMELESSNESS  
WEEK



Visit the Diocese of Algoma  
website for Homelessness Week  
reflections, prayers, and parish  
resources.

Send questions and register at  
[Jane.e.cox1@gmail.com](mailto:Jane.e.cox1@gmail.com).

Registrants will receive the  
webinar link 3 days before the  
panel discussion on May 2nd.



**Watch us LIVE** on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 at [www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services](http://www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services)

**Announcements for ETW** should be sent to [etw@epiphanysudbury.org](mailto:etw@epiphanysudbury.org) by NOON each Thursday.

**Donate Online:** You can make a donation to the Epiphany, via PayPal, by clicking the "Donate Now" button at the top or bottom of each page on our website.